AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A system that facilitates management of a subscription service, comprising:

a rules component that processes one or more rules in accordance with the subscription service of a subscriber, the one or more rules comprising a rule that automatically provides a license to a client, and prevents anonymous rotation of more clients than are authorized by the number dictated by the license wherein the rules component processes a churn rule of the one or more rules that facilitates control of how often one of the clients that are concurrently accessing the service can be replaced with a new client and processes a frequency rule of the one or more rules that facilitates control of a number of times that one of the clients can leave service and re-enter service in a given period of time; and

a services component that uses the one or more rules to automatically enforce the subscription service, in part, according to the number of concurrently connected clients of the subscriber.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 is employed in at least one of a client/server topology and a peer-to-peer topology.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, the concurrently connected clients each include a cookie that facilitates enforcement of the subscription service.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, each of the connected clients is placed on an active list of allowed clients.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, if the number of concurrently connected clients is exceeded, no other clients of the associated subscriber are allowed to connect to the services component.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, the one or more rules include a rule that allows an unlimited number of concurrently connected clients for the associated subscriber.

8. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a tracking component the tracks client activity of the subscriber and facilitates billing the subscriber accordingly.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, the one or more rules are applied automatically to a client of the subscriber as the client attempts to connect on an ad hoc basis.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an active list that is populated and depopulated dynamically according to a client respectively connecting to and disconnecting from the services component.

11. (Original) The system of claim 1 is employed in a peer-to-peer topology where one or more rules imposed by a first peer client are at least one of different, overlapping, and identical to one or more rules imposed by a second peer client.

12. (Original) The system of claim 1, the one or more rules further comprising a rule that limits an amount of churn per a specified time interval.

13. (Original) A server that employs the system of claim 1.

14. (Original) A computer that employs the system of claim 1.

15. (Original) A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the system of claim 1.

16. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a classifier that facilitates the performance of rules processing according to an inference.

17. (Previously presented) A system that facilitates control of client access to a service under a subscription service, comprising:

a rules component that processes one or more rules in accordance with the subscription service of a subscriber, the one or more rules provide a mechanism for ensuring that a subscriber is prevented from adding an unlimited number of clients or cycling clients in and out of the pool to effectively maintain service on a set of computers to which the subscriber is entitled wherein the rules component processes a churn rule, which is how often any client machine can be placed into service replacing any old machine and checks the allowed re-subscription frequency of an individual machine in a given period of time;

a services component that uses the one or more rules to facilitate automatic enforcement of the subscription service according to the number of concurrently connected clients of the subscriber; and

a tracking service that tracks client activity under the subscription service by managing an active list of the concurrently connected clients such the subscriber can be billed accordingly.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, the one or more rules enforced in accordance with the subscriber are at least one of the same, partially overlapping, and different then one or more rules enforced in accordance with a different subscriber.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, if the number of concurrently connected clients is exceeded, no other clients of the associated subscriber are allowed to connect to the services component.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, the one or more rules further comprising a rule that limits an amount of churn per a specified time interval.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, further comprising a classifier that facilitates determining when to switch from storing client information locally to storing client information on the client.

22. (Previously presented) A method of managing a subscription service, comprising:

providing access to a service in accordance with the subscription service;

automatically controlling access to the service according to one or more rules that are based at least in part on a number of clients that are concurrently accessing the service, the one or more rules provide a mechanism that prevents a subscriber from adding an unlimited number of clients or rotating clients in and out of the pool to effectively maintain service on a set of computers to which the subscriber is entitled;

processing a churn rule of the one or more rules that facilitates control of how often one of the clients that are concurrently accessing the service can be replaced with a new client; and

processing a frequency rule of the one or more rules that facilitates control of a number of times that one of the clients can access the service in a given period of time.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising automatically enforcing at least one of the churn rule and the frequency rule to deny access to a new client seeking access to the service.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

processing the churn rule to allow a subscriber of the subscription service to exceed the churn rule as an event; and

billing the subscriber according to each event.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

processing the one or more rules by allowing a subscriber of the subscription service to exceed selected ones of the one or more rules;

changing a level of service to a new level of service according to the selected ones of the one or more rules that were exceeded; and

thereafter, billing the subscriber at the new level of service.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

processing the one or more rules by allowing a subscriber of the subscription service to exceed selected ones of the one or more rules;

changing a level of service to a new level of service according to the selected ones of the one or more rules that were exceeded; and

dropping back to the level of service after the selected ones of the one or more rules that were exceeded, have not been exceeded for a predetermined period of time.

27. (Previously presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of managing a subscription service, the method comprising:

automatically providing a license to a client, and limiting anonymous cycling of more clients through the subscription service than are authorized by the license;

facilitating automatic enforcement of the subscription service according to at least one of a churn parameter and/or a frequency parameter;

providing access to a service in accordance with the subscription service;

tracking access to the service according to an active list of existing clients that are concurrently accessing the service;

processing access to the service by a new client; and

automatically enforcing the number of clients concurrently accessing the service.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27, the act of processing further comprises at least one of:

denying access to the new client according to how often one of the existing clients that are concurrently accessing the service has been replaced with a new client; and

denying access to the new client according to a number of times that the new client has accessed the service in a given period of time.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27, the act of processing further comprises:

authorizing the new client to access the service;

placing the new client on the active list; and

moving existing clients off the active list to a pending list.

30. (Original) The method of claim 27, the act of enforcing further comprises:

bumping at least one of the concurrently connected clients;

re-authenticating a subset of the existing clients; and

moving the subset of re-authenticated clients back to the active list.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

transmitting a cookie to a client; and

accessing the cookie during an authentication process to facilitate the client accessing the service.

32. (Previously presented) A system that facilitates managing a subscription service, comprising:

means for automatically providing a license to a client, and preventing access and use of the subscription service by more clients than are authorized by the license;

means for processing a churn rule of the one or more rules that limits an amount of churn per a specified time interval by denying new clients to be admitted into service until the specified period of time has elapsed;

means for processing a frequency rule of the one or more rules that facilitates control of a number of times that one of the clients can access the service in a given period of time;

means for facilitates the performance of rules processing according to an inference;

means for providing access to a service in accordance with the subscription service;

means for processing access to the service by a new client according a number of existing clients that are concurrently accessing the service;

means for tracking access to the service; and

means for automatically enforcing the number of clients concurrently accessing the service in accordance with a number of rules.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising at least one of:

means for authorizing the connecting client to access the service;

means for placing the connecting client on the active list; and

means for moving existing clients off the active list to a pending list.

34. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising at least one of:

means for re-authenticating a subset of the existing clients; and

means for moving the subset of re-authenticated clients back to the active list.

35. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising:

means for transmitting a cookie to a client; and

means for accessing the cookie during an authentication process to facilitate the client accessing the service.

36. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for maintaining an active list of the existing clients that are concurrently accessing the service.

37. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for determining when to enforce selects ones of the rules.

38. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for determining priorities in how clients will be allowed to connect.

39. (Original) The system of claim 32, further comprising means for automatically adjusting a level of service for a subscriber according to client activity over a period of time.

40. (Original) The system of claim 32, the means for automatically enforcing is a table-free system wherein subscribers of the service are tracked without the need for an administrator to manage the tables.